

(i) Untreated hemp, jute, or cotton string of 3/16 inches (4.8 mm) diameter or smaller; or

(ii) Magnesium alloy, timed float releases (pop-up devices) or similar magnesium alloy fasteners; or

(iii) Ungalvanized or uncoated iron wire of 0.094 inches (2.4 mm) diameter or smaller.

[61 FR 58467, Nov. 15, 1996, as amended at 62 FR 25138, May 8, 1997; 62 FR 66310, Dec. 18, 1997]

§ 648.145 Possession limit.

A possession limit will be established pursuant to the procedures in § 648.140 to assure that the recreational harvest limit is not exceeded.

(a) If whole black sea bass are processed into fillets, an authorized officer will convert the number of fillets to whole black sea bass at the place of landing by dividing fillet number by two. If black sea bass are filleted into a single (butterfly) fillet, such fillet shall be deemed to be from one whole black sea bass.

(b) Black sea bass harvested by vessels subject to the possession limit with more than one person aboard may be pooled in one or more containers. Compliance with the daily possession limit will be determined by dividing the number of black sea bass on board by the number of persons aboard, other than the captain and the crew. If there is a violation of the possession limit on board a vessel carrying more than one person, the violation shall be deemed to have been committed by the owner and operator.

(c) Owners or operators of otter trawl vessels issued a moratorium permit under § 648.4(a)(6) and fishing with, or possessing on board, nets or pieces of net that do not meet the minimum mesh requirements and that are not stowed in accordance with § 648.144(a)(4), may not retain 1,000 lb (453.6 kg) or more of black sea bass. Black sea bass on board these vessels shall be stored so as to be readily available for inspection in a standard 100-lb (45.4-kg) tote.

[61 FR 58467, Nov. 15, 1996, as amended at 63 FR 11160, Mar. 6, 1998]

§ 648.146 Special management zones.

The recipient of a Corps of Engineers permit for an artificial reef, fish attraction device, or other modification of habitat for purposes of fishing may request that an area surrounding and including the site be designated by the Council as a special management zone (SMZ). The SMZ will prohibit or restrain the use of specific types of fishing gear that are not compatible with the intent of the artificial reef or fish attraction device or other habitat modification. The establishment of an SMZ will be effected by a regulatory amendment pursuant to the following procedure:

(a) A SMZ monitoring team comprised of members of staff from the Mid-Atlantic FMC, NMFS Northeast Region, and NMFS Northeast Fisheries Science Center will evaluate the request in the form of a written report considering the following criteria:

- (1) Fairness and equity.
- (2) Promotion of conservation.
- (3) Avoidance of excessive shares.

(4) Consistency with the objectives of Amendment 9 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Summer Flounder, Scup and Black Sea Bass fisheries, the Magnuson-Stevens Act, and other applicable law.

(5) The natural bottom in and surrounding potential SMZs.

(6) Impacts on historical uses.

(b) The Council Chairman may schedule meetings of Industry Advisors and/or the Scientific and Statistical Committee to review the report and associated documents and to advise the Council. The Council Chairman may also schedule public hearings.

(c) The Council, following review of the SMZ monitoring teams' report, supporting data, public comments, and other relevant information, may recommend to the Regional Administrator that a SMZ be approved. Such a recommendation will be accompanied by all relevant background information.

(d) The Regional Administrator will review the Council's recommendation. If the Regional Administrator concurs in the recommendation, he or she will publish a proposed rule in the FEDERAL